pennsylvania musician
magazine
Vol.39 #453 July 2021

CASEY WALTON

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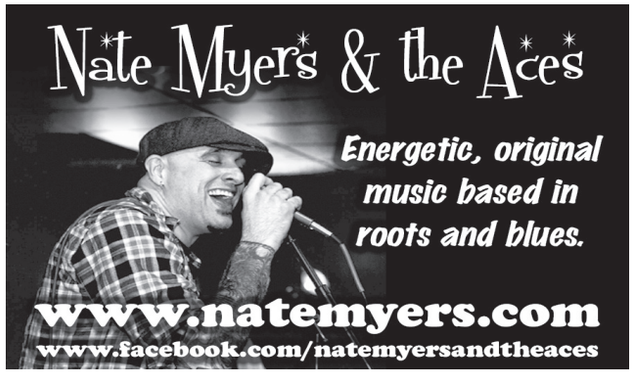

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Aug 6 Grandpa's Love Shack Shermans Dale, PA
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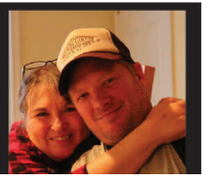
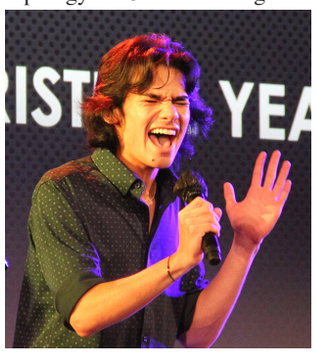
Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll



Hello Pennsylvania!! I'd like to start off this month with an apology to Christian Yeager and his family. It appears as if we mixed up some info in our cover story last month on some specific information, as to who helped him get started in his music career. To read the full revised story please go to https://issuu.com/pamusicianmagazine/docs/pamusicianjune2021christianyeager . We are very sorry for the mix up and once again sorry to Christian and his family and anyone else it may have affected.



Christian Yeager
photo by Rachel Rocks

Next, I really just want to thank everyone that helped make the Whitey Noll Celebration of Life a success. The event went off without a hitch except for some mild rain that kept some of the crowd away. First big THANK YOU goes out to Dave and Linda Russell for letting us invade their home and property for the weekend and turn it into an outdoor concert. They have been supporters of the paper for years and are just part of our family. Second huge THANK YOU is to the Stage Crew led by Bill Christiansen who just keeps a stage stored around because he can. He stated that when people say, "Let's have a party, get some bands and some beers," that he likes to be ready to make it all happen. His helpers: Jimi Cleveland, Jonny Suicide and Josh Knuth, plus a few more guys coming and going bringing this bolt or that block of wood and maybe some cinder blocks. Needless to say, they put up a nice sized stage in just a few short hours. Of course I was there handing out beers and barking out orders, trying to keep Dave Russell from falling through his own fence. Once erected, the stage was set for "The Number One Sound Guy in the world" —Keith Hummel, to come in and setup shop. Keith has been with the paper since the early days and there was no other choice on who was going to do sound for the show. Lucky Keith (ha, ha). He was a real trooper, we knew it was going to rain but we just grabbed tarps and plastic and kept the show rolling. Hopefully by the time I drop his papers off this month, his gear will be dry or I may get a rude awakening when I get there. Wish me luck. Next on the list of humongous THANKS is the Security crew led by Brent Lesperance. He is another one of those "family members for life" that is always there to take care of any and all problems that may arise. When asked who was security for the event it was a no brainer. Next THANK YOU to all the family and friends that ran around making up signs and getting all the supplies we needed. It really takes a lot of people to do something like this event and it really brings a new respect to all the people that do this every weekend, out there supporting live music and "making it happen" as Bill would say. Rachel Rocks did a huge amount of "pre gaming' on this event, lining up food trucks, bugging the bands, week after week, making sure we were all still good. Keeping the Russell's sane and assuring them it wouldn't get "too Crazy'. The list goes on and on. A special biggest THANK YOU goes to my beautiful loving Missy aka "Mother Trucker" who we all know needs no introduction. She ran around all weekend grabbing this or running for that, looking for the right ratchet strap. She is the love of my life and I couldn't have done it without her. THANK YOU MISSY!!!!

Noll clan photo by Rachel Rocks

Once the show started and people started rolling in, it was like an old school PA Musician reunion. Sean Byndas came up from Florida!! Lots of smiles and hugs as people who haven't seen each other in years were once again face to face like they were hanging at the Metron or maybe better yet 'The Devil's Hole Jam'. It made all the work well worth it to see everyone get together from near and far to party for Whitey one more time. A HUGE THANK YOU to all the bands and musicians that came out despite the rainy beginning; Danielle Farhat, who opened the show, a former student of Dad's, with an amazing voice. David Greene, Rick Beck and Charlie Hood. These guys were "Dad's Band" at some point in time and helped him create the Ukaboom Man personna by being his Ukaboom band. The Syn D' Cats who's lead singer Dave Venet, spent many a gig alongside Dad . The Shea, Ian & Steve & Friends Band, yes we can't say the Sharks, but it was as close as they could get on that day and I think everyone there would agree it was an awesome performance. The Martini Bros. what can you say it's the Martinis They were Dad's last request as the band he wanted to see (plus one of mom's favorites) so they made it happen. Road Case, one of our long time advertisers and supporters who's front man Chris Redding has been in more issues of the paper then we could count and has been a pillar of the heavy metal hair band scene in PA for years. Last, but definitely not least is The Suicide Puppets! These guys stepped up and provided backline support for the bands and have been another long time supporters of the paper. All the bands did AMAZING and I'm sure you can catch more details throughout the paper as the staff was in full support of the event including Chris Rider Photography capturing the event on film for us. Also some other local legend photographers showed up and helped capture the event as well including Darlene Hassinger Band Photography and Kim Hansen. Please go check them out on facebook and give them some likes— three great photographers that are out there supporting local music.

Well I'm sure I forgot some people but thanks to all the family, friends and fans that showed up and had a good time with us. This celebration really reminded us why we do what we do. We have kept the music community connected for 39 years by capturing it and putting it all in print so generations from now, when the computers are all toast from the passing comet, tucked away in a closet somewhere could be an old issue of the PA Musician Magazine with your photo in it. Advertise TODAY! call or text 717-636-4203 or email Joshnoll@pamusician.net

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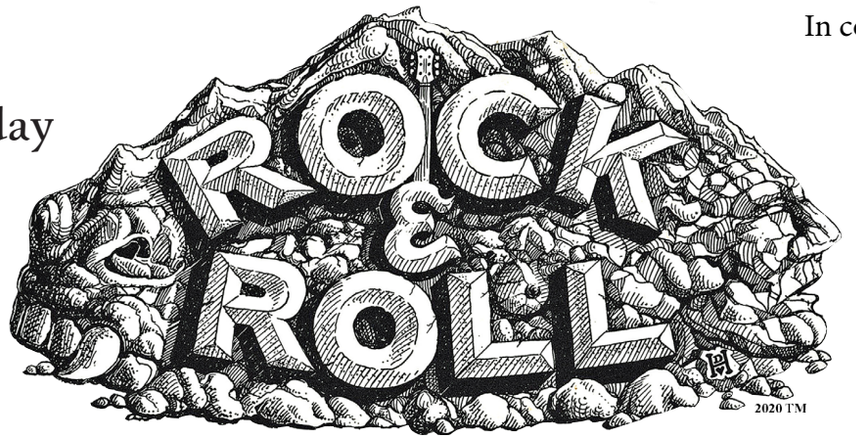

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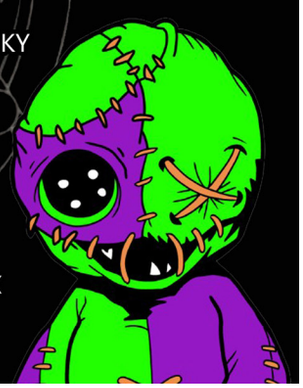
9/06/2021 WC Social Club - West Chicago, IL
9/07/2021 Emerson Theater - Indianapolis, IN
9/08/2021 Diamond Pub Concert Hall - Louisville, KY
9/09/2021 Zydeco - Birmingham, AL
9/12/2021 The Masquerade - Atlanta, GA
9/14/2021 Scout Bar - Houston, TX
9/15/2021 Come and Take It Live - Austin, TX
9/16/2021 Trees - Dallas, TX
9/17/2021 Country River Club - Tyler, TX
9/18/2021 Vibes Event Center - San Antonio, TX
9/19/2021 Rockhouse Bar & Grill - El Paso, TX
10/2 Johnny Joes-Mechanicsburg, Pa



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7/17 Private Party
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7/10 @ 9-11pm: Blue Sky Tavern Etters
7/17 @ 6-9pm: Snitz Creek Brewery Lebanon
7/23 @ 6-8pm: Grandpa's Love Shack Shermans Dale
7/24 @ 3-6pm: Racehorse Tavern Thomasville
7/24 @ 8-11pm: Snitz Creek Brewery Annville
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9th – Jonathan Frazier 4pm-6pm
Jake Joyce 7pm-10pm
16th- Any Kind of Train 4pm-6pm
Ben Pierson 7pm-10pm
23rd– Jonathan Frazier 4pm-6pm
Dan Jamison 7pm-10pm
30th – Any Kind of Train 4pm-6pm
Spaghetti Legs 7pm-10pm

Saturday Music
3rd – Samantha 2pm-5pm
Jonathan Frazier 7pm-10pm
10th– RJ Conrad 2pm-5pm
Matt & Jeff 7pm-10pm
17th – ADG 2pm-5pm
Streamline 7pm-10pm
24th – Chuck Britton 2pm-5pm
Dawn Zemaitis 7pm-10pm
31st – Samantha 2pm-5pm
Jessica Boyer 7pm-10pm

Wednesday- Music Trivia
Hosted by FFEJ HERB. Starts at 7pm.

Thursday – Open Mic Night
1st & 3rd – Hosted by Bjorn Jacobsen
2nd & 4th -Hosted by Dan Jamison

Sunday Music
11th – Jim Lewis 1pm-4pm
Bottom Buzzer 5pm-8pm
18th – Mendez Brothers 3pm-7pm
25th – Mark Santanna & The Snake Oil Salesmen 1pm-4pm
Stu Huggins & Larry Huslin

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2. Steal Your Face 2020
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5Oz draft $3-13oz $6-32oz $13
3. Terrapin Tripel
Belgian Tripel-9% ABV
5Oz draft $3-13oz $6-32oz $13
4. Terrapin Over Cherries 2021
Belgian Tripel-11.3% ABV
5oz draft $4-13oz $8
5. Playing In The Bock
Bock-Single-6%ABV
5oz draft $3-13oz $5-16oz $6 32oz $12
6.August West Coast IPA
IPA- American-6.9% ABV
5oz draft $3- 13oz $5- 16oz $6- 32oz $12
7. Dark Star Stout
Stout- American- 8.3% ABV
5oz draft $3- 13oz $5- 16oz $6- 32oz $12
8. Black Cherry
Cider-Traditional- 5.5%ABV
5oz draft $4- 13oz $8
9. Snow White Tan Pilsner
Pilsner- Czech- 5.4% ABV
5oz draft $3-13oz $5- 16oz $6-32oz $12
10. Dark Star Stout From The Barrel
Stout- American- 8.5% ABV
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OUT 'n' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

Wow! What an amazing beginning to Summer! I feel a little exhausted, but I wasn't sure why until I gathered together all of the bands I've seen this month and all of the crazy things I've done! Graduations, Anniversaries, Weddings, and BANDS! Lots of BANDS! Nothing to it but to do it.. here goes!

It started what seems like forever ago when we went to play Golden Girls Trivia at Spring Gate. Holly, Nikki, and I felt like we were the only ones who sit at home and watch the Golden Girls, but boy were we proved wrong. I couldn't believe all of the Teams, and I think we placed like 25th or something crazy! Haha! It's awesome to see all of the Trivia, Bingo, and Karaoke returning to the scene. After our major defeat we needed to feel better about ourselves so we headed to Duke's Riverside for Katz 22. It was awesome to see them once again! They recently had to replace their drummer, after quite a few auditions they finally found Jim Rhoads. I've seen Jim play solo and with a different band, he's definitely been playing throughout the area, but I'm glad he finally found his way back behind a drum kit! It was awesome to hear how Katz 22 was still as smooth and locked in as ever. Katz 22 does a great job at getting their fans out of their seats and onto the dance floor and this night was no different! If you want a great party band that will get your venue dancing and rockin' the night away, give Katz 22 a call. You can find their schedule and booking info in this issue.

Katz 22 at Duke's Riverside photo by RR

The next night I headed down to BBQ Tavern to see Derek doing his acoustic thing. When we arrived Darrin was also on stage playing with Derek. It's always awesome to see the brothers playing together. I also saw Derek playing up at Sherman's Creek Inn this month. Shermans

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Sunday, July18th – Lost Mined Brewing Co., Shamokin, PA, 6:30 – 8:30
Saturday, July 24th, Boyer's Tavern, Rexmont, PA, 7:00 – 10:00
Friday, July 30th, Downtown Lounge, Lebanon, PA, 7:00 - 10:00

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Creek Inn was packed for a 21st birthday and they loved "Country Roads" so much that Derek had to play it twice! Derek's shows are such a sing a long good time, although I know for sure, he wishes I wouldn't sing or do the Rachel Cackle, but that's the hard part about being a musician and putting yourself out there, you have to be able to remain professional and put up with crazy people in the crowd like me, and Derek does a fantastic job! If you want to get Derek scheduled at your venue his ad is also in this issue!

The following night it was a long adventure, but a great one. I stopped in and had a birthday dinner with my good friend Terri at Blue Sky Tavern, and then kept zooming down 83 to Hell in a Bucket Brewery in Wrightsville. My good friend Joseph Daub is bartending there and organizing all of the live music. It has an awesome little vibe and their only focus is music and beer! An awesome touch is he also has a cooler full of non-alcoholic beverages for any DDs or just people that need to hydrate before hitting the road. Hell In a Bucket Brewery's beers are strong and delicious! And when I stopped by Bjorn was just finishing his set. Wow! What an amazing musician. I've never heard him before, but I'm keeping my eye out for him now. It was also his birthday, so one of his fans broke out into Happy Birthday and of course the whole, packed bar was singing along. Hell In A Bucket is definitely a place where best friends get together to hang out, have a good time, and listen to amazing music. You can check out their ad in this issue for even more details, and to plan your next trip to Hell In A Bucket Brewery.

Madison Ryan at XL Live
photo by Rachel Rocks

Back In Black at XL Live
photo by Rachel Rocks

When that show was over I headed to Racehorse Tavern for Stephanie and the Wild Hearts. They are from the Altoona area so this was a special treat to get them down in our neck of the woods. Stephanie and Bob are husband and wife and also share the vocal duties for the band. It is beautiful watching them on stage together. They have amazing harmonies and just back each other up perfectly. It's awesome to see their love and unity on the stage. The whole band is really cohesive and they put on a great show. They are nominated for the Best Cover Band at the CPMAs in a couple days, I can't wait to see who all of the winners will be. This was Stephanie and the Wild Hearts first trip to the Racehorse, but even before they were done with their show, Jim was already talking to them about getting them back there! Keep an eye out for them,

Stephanie & the Wildhearts at Racehorse Tavern photo by RR

because you don't want to miss this special show. You can check out their full schedule in this issue.

My next night out was a highly anticipated event.. ROCK BANDS BACK AT XL LIVE! I unfortunately once again missed Hot and Dangerous, I promise I will get to a show one of these days.. But I did get there in time for Road Case and Back in Black. I can't even begin to tell you how rejuvenating it was to see these bands back on the big stage, with amazing lights and sound, and dance the night away! Holly, Matt, and I had so much fun that we went and saw both bands again at a private event in Lewisberry a couple weeks later. Welcome back to the stage guys! Thank you for the entertainment!

On a quieter night we went to New Fangled to see Jason Carst. Jason kept music alive and well thru all of his live streams during the Pandemic, but it is always so nice seeing him live and in person. He's getting pretty tricky with all of his technology. He still streams every show, which is super smart since he can also still collect tips from his fans at home. He also has a fancy looper machine whatever they're called. I'm always amazed at all of the sounds he can record and keep in time with. I can't even sing Row, Row, Row Your Boat with friends!

Friday night I headed back to XL Live for Smooth Like Clyde. It has been way too long since I saw these guys! It was their first time back on stage and they killed it! Kudos to all of you bands that have kept up your skills somehow while being trapped at home, and sometimes trapped away from each other. It has been a long time, but there were no dust on their amps. They killed it from beginning to end. I was exhausted from all of the dancing.. I'm the one who's out of shape!

The following week was a super special event, The Central PA Music Core Awards. It was a special pre-ceremony to the big event coming up, the CPMAs. The Core Awards focused on business awards, and also the Best Youth Artist. All of the Youth Artists played a song live during the show, even tho they were all amazing Addi Grace kicked butt with her version of "Creep". In the end, Addi won the award for Best Youth Artist, it was definitely well deserved. Some other awards went out to our very own Chris Rider Photography for Best Photographer, and even the PA Musician Magazine was given a Spot Award for the Best Music Publication. At the end of the night Shea Quinn and Friends got on stage and played a whole show. Overall, it was an amazing night of music, friends and recognition; all done in the absolutely stunning Englewood in Hershey. I can't wait for the big 2nd Annual CPMAs on July 1st!

We all know I go support a lot of Derek Henry's acoustic shows, and that was great to get us through a pandemic, but finally it was time for his full band Observe the 93rd. I was actually able to catch two shows this month! The first was at the Honey & the Hog Music Festival in Dillsburg. Tara and Greg Hildebrand also have a business called Honey Bee Friendly and they promote their products by hosting this festival. It was a beautiful day and everyone was loving the live music! The stage was manned by Rock Mill and Hershey AV Solutions (Logan and Justin). It was awesome to see them both! Observe the 93rd (OT93) has been putting out a lot of new music, and it was great to finally get the chance to hear them live. Their second show as at XL Live which I will mention later.

Another massive event that happened this month was Dad's Celebration of Life! I wish I had more space to express how thankful I am to everyone who came, played, and helped make this amazing day a huge success! Huge kudos to Dave and Linda for hosting the event on their private land. Thanks to Danielle Farhat for opening up the day with two of Dad's favorite songs: Amazing Grace and Waymaker. It was beautiful! Thank you to Pastor Tim Eshenour from Abundant Harvest Church in Duncannon for his beautiful service. Thanks to Dave Greene, Rick Beck, and Charlie Hood for jamming to a few of Dad's original songs. Thanks for listening to my debut uke performance. I promise I'll be more prepared next time, Josh sprung that idea on my about 30 seconds before I took the stage! Huge thanks to Keith Hummel for running sound all day and night. Thanks to Ray Rossi for keeping things flowing and on time and spinning songs when he could. Thanks to all of the bands for donating your time and talent: The SynD'Cats, Shea, Ian, Steve and Friends, The Martini Bros., Road Case, and Suicide Puppets. And thanks to everyone who showed up. Like Jen Shade said, Dad and the PA Musician Magazine have really created a beautiful, musical family here in Central PA and beyond. So many people came out to the event, even in the rain, and it was truly a magical day.

THANK YOU ONE & ALL!!!

After all of that wonderful craziness, I was ready for some chill time, and it just so happened that DMC Duo was playing a special Wednesday show at the Hideaway in Mt. Gretna. They were playing out on the deck and it was a beautiful night. The Hideaway have a gorgeous and huge deck area with plenty of seating. There was a couple up vacationing from Maryland, but when they googled DMC Duo they were excited because of Darrell's strumming patterns they knew they'd be able to dance to their music. And they truly did dance all night long. It was beautiful. It was truly what I needed, just a nice, relaxing night, sitting back and enjoying the show.

Friday night it was back to XL for Medusa's Disco. I haven't heard these guys for a long time and I was definitely looking forward to their awesome stage energy and performance. Opening the night, I was finally able to catch The Super High Tech Jet Fighters. Eric Hoffman, our National's writer actually lets them practice in his basement, so I've heard all about them, and I'm glad I finally got to see them. Mojo Bozo's Electric Circus took the stage next. They had an interesting sound with a great keys player. They did a great job at getting the stage all heated up for Medusa's Disco. They might only have three guys in the band, but the sound that Medusa's Disco can make is amazing. It was a great show even though that was the latest I've been out in a really long time! Time to accumulate dust on my pillow again.. as the shows get later there is less and less sleep in my life.

We finally made it to the last night of the month. It started early in the day with my friends Michelle and Sherry's wedding. It was a beautiful ceremony officiated by my amazing friend Sabrina Kreps. The reception was at Boomerang's and it turns out Stoned Alice was playing at the same time on the outdoor stage. After all of my wedding duties I headed outside to see Stoned Alice. I thought they were more of an Alice Cooper tribute, but it turns out they play all kinds of your favorite classic rock songs. They had the patio at Boomerang's packed and there were quite a few Stoned Alice shirts in the crowd.

After their 1st set I zoomed over to XL Live for Madison Ryan and Observe the 93rd. Madison Ryan was on our cover back in January and I was looking forward to seeing her playing out live again. Both bands did an amazing job playing their original music and few covers. The amount of talent in both bands is just crazy. We once again had an amazing night of dancing, jumping, and having a fantastic time with friends!

It's hard to believe I finally made it to the end. I know my space is extremely limited, but I also wanted to thank TJ Rockwell's in Elizabethtown for letting me take over their deck area for the photoshoot for this month's cover with Casey Walton. Make sure and check out the cover story and check out Casey's new CD, "This Town".

Please get out there and Support Live Music! If you know of a show I should be at, or maybe you just have some advice for me, please email me at RachelRocks@pamusician.net.

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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Live concerts continue to roll in and gain momentum as society opens up from the pandemic Last month began with seeing the Grammy award-winning bluegrass Del McCoury Band in Cumberland, Md. The former York, Pennsylvania native now resides in Nashville but continues to visit the tri-state area to his most loyal following. Del McCoury is the most awarded artist in Bluegrass history including 9 IMBA Entertainer of the Year Awards. The band went through a number of changes in personnel until the 1980s when the band solidified its line-up, adding McCoury's sons, Ronnie and Robbie on mandolin and banjo, respectively. In 2008, Del McCoury started DelFest, an annual bluegrass festival in Cumberland, Md. Del McCoury Band plays every night at each of the festivals. DelFest takes place this year Sept. 23 thru 26.

Other notable local shows this past month included: Jeffrey Gaines at XL Live on June 11, Double Barrel Bluegrass at United Birthday Club in Glen Rock, PA on June 12, The Super High-Tech Jet Fighters at XL Live on June 25 and a wonderful tribute to our PA Musician founder Whitey Noll on June 19. His Celebration of Life

Matt Smith of Syn D' Cats & Poison

Music Festival brought together so many old friends in the music community as well as live performances from bands: Syn D' Cats, members of The Sharks, Martini Bros, Road Case and Suicide Puppets. A very happy day celebrating the life of someone who brought so much to the Central PA music community. It was awesome to hear songs from his album, "Between the Curtains and the Clouds," over the PA system.

Hardcore hip hop duo, Insane Clown Posse, visited Shiley Acres in Inwood, WV on June 26. The group hosted a special concert event titled, 'ICP's Chicken Huntin Hootenanny Hoedown Show,' and fans showed up in Hillbilly attire. ICP has established a dedicated following called Juggalos numbering in the "tens of thousands." The

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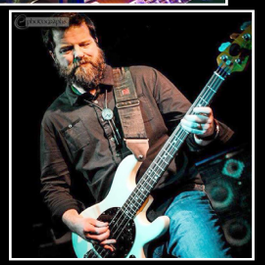

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10/3 Dirt Stock 2021, Mechanicsburg PA
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Friday, July 9th ~
ADAM BLESSING
Music 6-9pm

Sunday July 11th - On Deck 5-8pm
DMC DUO

Friday, July 16th -
BEKA JONES
Music 6-9pm

Sunday July 18th - On Deck 5-8pm
RYAN MAYERSKY

Friday, July 23rd -
CODY WILEY
Music 6-9pm

Sunday, July 25th ~ On the Deck 5-8pm The Two of the 3

Friday, July 30th -
JESSICA BATZ
Acoustic 6-9pm

Sunday, August 1st -
COLTON MILLER
Acoustic on the Deck 5-8pm

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duo is known for its elaborate live performances including dousing the audience with three to four hundred two-liters of Faygo soda at every show. Insane Clown Posse has earned two platinum and five gold albums. The entire catalog of the group has sold over 10 million units.

Steve Zero, Ian Rawhauser, Shea Quinn of The Sharks

Highlight of the month included a music-related trip to Rockaway Beach and NYC. We were fortunate to stay at the home of Adam Vomit of Toilet Boys in Rockaway Beach and hear band stories and see his amazing music collection. We also took a day to visit homes of musicians including Dee Dee Ramone, Madonna, Ric Ocasek, Sid Vicious and Patti Smith. Punk rock band, Toilet Boys, have opened for bands: The Ramones, Blondie, Rancid, Joan Jett, Motorhead, The Donnas, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Nashville Pussy, Orgy and The Damned. Their next show is Nov 27 at Webster Hall in NYC with the Lunachicks.

NATIONAL NEWS! Guns 'N' Roses have announced rescheduled dates as well as 14 new shows at stadiums and arenas this summer, bringing along Wolfgang Van Halen's band Mammoth for its touring debut. The trek runs July 31 through Oct. 3, with opening night at Hersheypark Stadium. The formerly sleeping giant known as GNR came back in a big way with its full original lineup in 2016, with the "Not In This Lifetime Tour" running for major chunks of three years 2016-2018 and into 2019. In 2017 the band gross just shy of $300 million on 267 million tickets on 81 shows, behind only the mighty U2 for that year.

Mark Hoppus bassist/songwriter for Blink-182, revealed in a social media post that he has been undergoing chemotherapy for cancer for a few months. Hoppus, 49, shared a photo of himself during chemotherapy that said, "Yes, hello. One cancer treatment, please." He then wrote a message, "For the past three months I've been undergoing chemotherapy for cancer. I have cancer. It sucks and I'm scared, and at the same time I'm blessed with incredible doctors and family and friends to get me through this. I still have months of treatment ahead of me and but I'm trying to remain hopeful and positive. Can't wait to be cancer free and see you all at a concert in the near future. Love to you all."

Britney Spears recently asked a judge to end the court conservatorship that has controlled her life and money since 2008. Spears called the 13- year conservatorship "abusive," and condemned her father and the others who have controlled it. "This conservatorship is doing me way more harm than good," she said. "I deserve to have a life." More than 100 fans from the so called #FreeBritney movement gathered outside the courthouse before the hearing, holding signs that read "Free Britney now!" and "Get out of Britney's life!" James Spears serves as co-conservator of his daughter's finances, and also had control of her life decisions for most of the conservatorship. Her father and his attorneys have emphasized that she and her fortune, which court records put at more than $50 million, remain vulnerable to fraud and manipulation. Under the law, the burden would be on Spears to prove she is competent.

Twenty One Pilots is ready to conquer the world with its "Takeøver Tour," which starts Sept. 21 and continues well into 2022. The tour has currently been announced in eight markets, (Denver, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, Columbus, Atlanta, Mexico City, London) with the band scheduled to play multiple venues, from clubs to arenas, in most cities. The tour will be promoting Twenty One Pilots' latest album, Scaled And Icy.

"Springsteen On Broadway," Bruce Springsteen's Tony-winning one-man stage performance, will return for a limited run this summer. From June 26 through Sept. 4, the legendary 71-year-old rocker will reprise his "Springsteen On Broadway" performance for 30 performances. The production will be staged at Manhattan's St. James Theatre, "I loved doing 'Springsteen on Broadway' and I'm thrilled to have been asked to reprise the show as part of the reopening of Broadway," said Springsteen in a statement. The initial run of "Springsteen On Broadway," was a smash, selling out 236 performances, selling more than 223,000 tickets from October 2017 to December 2018.

Winston Marshall, a founding member of folk-rock group Mumford & Sons, announced Thursday that is leaving the band so that he can "speak freely" about political issues. Marshall, who plays guitar and banjo with the group, said his bandmates had "invited me to continue with them," but he had decided to leave so that he could "speak freely without them suffering the consequences." "As long as I am a member of the band, speaking my mind on the evils of political extremism could bring them trouble. My loyalty and love for them cannot permit that." Formed in London in 2007, Mumford & Sons have had huge success with their jangly folk-rock and won the album of the year Grammy for their 2012 record "Babel."

Foo Fighters played Madison Square Garden's on June 20, the arena's first concert since March 10, 2020. The Garden's first concert in more than 460 days hosted a full-capacity audience of vaccinated fans. Foo Fighters also announced they will repeat the duties at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif. come July 17, when it plays the full-capacity show at the 17,500-cap venue in more than a year. The Dave Grohl-fronted quintet played well over three sweaty hours at the Garden show. Eagles have also booked two nights at MSG in New York on Aug. 22 and 24, in what will be the continuation of the band's "Hotel California Tour." The band will perform a set commemorating the 1976 album Hotel California with a full orchestra and choir, and will also perform a set of greatest hits from throughout the group's existence. See my facebook for more pictures.

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4PM FLU SHOTS

BIKE RUN
10AM AT HORSPOWER
1PM ENDS AT SVBT

SVBT
2 STAGE EVENT
1PM CASS & CREW
1:45PM VOYAGER
2:30PM MUMMS THE WORD
3:15PM AUGUST
4PM HAIRBOORNE
4:45PM STONEHENGE
5:30PM RED WEDNESDAY
6:15PM MASON DIXON
7PM HALFWAY TO HELL

THE VALLEY INN
2 STAGE EVENT
6PM OUTRAGE
6:45PM LEO & KG
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Casey Walton, Small Town Girl Brings Music to Life

By: Rachel Rocks

Casey Walton is a singer/songwriter from Lancaster, PA. She started playing about 18 years ago after her Dad bought a guitar with a "Teach Yourself Lynyrd Skynyrd" VHS. She instantly got hooked and started learning on her own before she found a great teacher, Wayne Thompson. He helped her learn enough to start writing her own music, and recently she even started taking lessons again to refine her technique and learn some more tricks of the trade. As a musician, Casey is constantly evolving, and learning new things.

In 2013 Casey packed up her bags and headed to Nashville. She stayed down there for 3 years, she learned a lot and met a lot of awesome people. Some of those awesome people are actually co-writers on her new album "This Town", that will be released on July 2nd. On June 15th she released her 1st single, "Something About a Small Town" that was co-written with Alisha Lynn Sheely. It's a great song inspired by Rock Hall, MD, it's that perfect small town with the little white church on the corner of Main St. where she spent her weekends in the Summer growing up.

Casey recorded her album with the help of Steven Courtney. During the pandemic when Casey was playing a live stream, Steven messaged her and gave her some guidance on tweaking her sound, and after some conversations she found out he also had a recording studio, and before she knew it, they were recording her album. It has been quite the learning process, but Casey appreciates all of Steven's patience and guidance working through this process. Casey is a Project Manager by day, so she of course has spreadsheets with deadlines for her album, but Steven helped make sure her expectations were realistic, and helped finally get the album complete and ready for its release on July 2nd. Casey wrote every track on the album during her 3 years in Nashville; some by herself and some with other Nashville songwriters and artists. Not only were they involved in writing the songs, but thanks to technology, some also recorded vocal parts remotely for the album. Steven is also playing multiple different instruments throughout the album, adding to the sound, and making it everything Casey dreamed it would ever be.

During her early days of writing and performing music, Casey struggled with her confidence and whether or not she had what it takes to pursue music seriously. Her confidence in her songwriting ability was boosted when she submitted a song to the Mello Yellow "One Track Find" Songwriting Contest in 2012. She made it to the Top 50, and through public fan voting, made it all the way to the Top 5, ultimately giving her the confidence she needed to move to Nashville a few months later. She loves her family's support, but getting the support from the general public is pretty awesome too!

Casey has quite a few shows coming up in the next few weeks. You can check them all out on her website, www.caseywalton.net. One of her upcoming shows is in the Wine Garden at the Food Trucks & Fireworks show in Harrisburg, she will be playing from 5-6pm on the 4th of July. She hasn't planned a big CD Release party yet, but she will be out there promoting her album on 102.3 Red Country Radio Station. She has an interview around 8:30am on July 23rd and July 25th at 8pm she will be part of their special showcase. Casey is willing to play anywhere someone will listen. She's had weekends that she has a gig at a Country Club and then later that night she's rockin' the Tourist Inn the next! Right now she currently only plays solo, but one day she might gather together a band for special occasions, but it's hard to give up the freedom of playing solo. It's so much easier to book shows when you don't have to match up so many schedules. If you would like to get Casey booked at your venue or private party, you can email her at caseyjwalton@icloud.com.

Casey is so excited to release her debut album, "This Town" on July 2nd. Please get ready to stream it on all of your favorite music platforms, or you can also pre-order her album through her website, CaseyWalton.bandcamp.com. You can choose to order the digital or physical version. I'm personally glad she's still offering a physical version!

Casey wanted to again thank Steven Courtney for helping her to create her album. She also wants to thank all of her co-writers: Alisha Lynn Sheely, Anna Catherine Dehart, Emily Hawkins, Marti Dodson, Robyn Collins, and Sarah Aili. They all had such a huge part in getting her album into fruition. She also wants to thank anyone who has ever listened to her music online or at a show. She loves playing, and if people enjoy what they are hearing, that's just a BONUS! Please like Casey Walton on Facebook, and follow her everywhere else. You can also check out her website, www.caseywalton.net for gigs, videos, play lists, etc.

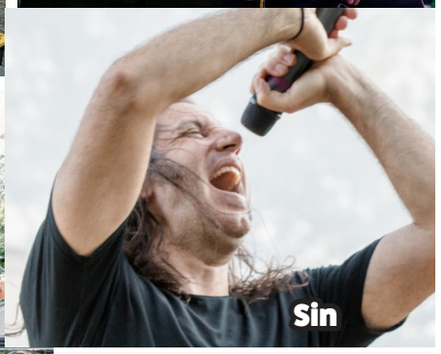
RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

Welcome to July! Well...it will be by the time you read this at least. June was one hell of a month, to say the least. As many of you may know, I was nominated for the 2nd year in a row in Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame's Music Awards as one of Central PA's best music photographers. This year, I was honored to bring this award home, presented by Glenn Hamilton of 97.3 The River at the beautiful Englewood. I am completely humbled by each and every person that took the time to not only nominate me, but to vote for me as well and I can't say "Thank You" enough. I went there without a speech prepared because let's face it, all of the nominees are outstanding photographers and I can't stress enough how I am continually impressed by all of their incredible work. Once again, a big shout out to PA Musician for taking a chance on me and adding me to the team, to my family and friends, and everyone that has supported me so much over the years in my pursuit to learn and grow as a music photographer. It was a pretty amazing night to say the least.

Over the last month, I made it out to 6 events: 1 4-day festival, 2 1-day festivals, and 3 other events. Over the course of those 6 events, I shot performances by 25 bands. 25! Live music is back...and the way each and every single one of these musicians played, it felt like they didn't skip a beat. I've got a lot to cover here, so let's get started.

My first trip out was to see my pals Ken Damelio and Kenny Jenkins in their new project "K2" up at Iron Vines Winery. They did a whole set of covers including Down by the River, I shot the sheriff, My Girl, House of the rising sun, and even had Sunbury Slim join in with his harmonica for an awesome cover of Red House.



My next trip was out of PA, but it was with some of the best friends a guy from PA could ask for (most also from PA), down to the mountains of West Virginia for Waynestock Outdoor Adventure and Music Festival. Waynestock started out with a group of just 20 or so friends, and has grown to over 300 outdoors and music enthusiasts. White water rafting, zip lining, frisbee golf, mountain biking...and of course MUSIC! Look up Waynestock on Facebook for more info on everything this awesome festival has to offer...I only have so much room on these pages and a LOT of music to cover LOL. First group up was Alo Ver (@AloVerMusic), a female fronted group playing old time Appalacian style tunes with sweet, melodic vocals. These folks were the perfect start to the weekend's music. Next up was FRUTE (@thefruteband), a jam band with a Grateful Dead'ish vibe and a soulful groove that really got the crowd moving. They've got an album in the works that has one single "Stephen Hawking" out on Spotify now that's definitely worth checking out. Next group to play was Nicole June & The Boys (@nicolejunelive). Nicole recently joined up with the boys to create this group, but it was honestly hard to tell as they played as though they've been together a long time. They played a great mix of tunes including an original titled "Camping with Gretchen" that was written just the night before! The music shifted gears with Snatch the Snail (@SnatchtheSnail), a 3 piece band with a hard funk/groove sound that echoed through the mountains. These guys played with an energy that made me jealous LOL. Bringing back the funk and jam was a Southeast PA group called Spaghetti Legs, named after one of the band members' cat named Spaghetti who has neurological issues.

These guys killed their set, laying down awesome funk rhythms with extended jams...just enjoying being out in the woods sharing their music with an awesome crowd. I didn't know it at the time, but this would end up being the first of 3 times I'd see James Klippel (on keys) playing in various bands this month. He seems pretty cool for a stalker ;) The final band of the weekend was a band that played Waynestock last year, The Roof. Based out of Pittsburg, these guys formed while at Penn State out of their love for Led Zeppelin, Allman Brothers and several others, and these influences come through strong in their well written originals. I suspect they'll be regulars at Waynestock as everyone loves them. Several of the members were recently involved in a car accident that was pretty serious, but they were ok and went on to play 2 shows that coming weekend. That's some dedication to their art right there. I'll end this part by reiterating this: if you have not checked out or attended Waynestock, you need to at least check it out! This is a special and fantastic little festival, every time I pull in down there I feel like I've arrived at my second home.

My next trip out was to the CPMHOF pre-awards show at The Englewood, followed by a performance by Shea Quinn and The Luv Gods. I've heard these guys since I was...well, much younger...but never got to see them until that evening. They covered tunes from all over the classic rock spectrum, including Tom Petty, AC/DC, and Glenn Hamilton even joined them on stage to perform Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run" (quite well I might add!). Shea was also joined later on by several members of The Sharks to perform some of their great tunes as well as James Klippel (sighting #2).

I then headed down to Mechanicsburg for "A Tribute of our Generation Music Festival". This one day festival featured tribute bands for each of the decades from the 60's through the 00's, some of them traveling a pretty good distance. The bands playing were: LEGZZ – A tribute to ZZ Top, The Seven Bends – a tribute to the Allman Brothers Band, Nicks In Time – a tribute to Stevie Nicks, Maiden America – a tribute to Iron Maiden, Outta The Cellar – a tribute to RATT, Fade to Black – a tribute to Metallica, SIN – a tribute to Nine Inch Nails, Children of the Korn – a tribute to Korn, Next to Nothing – a tribute to Breaking Benjamin, and Hybrid Theory – a tribute to Linkin Park. All of these bands did an awesome job of paying tribute to their respective bands. Not surprisingly I guess, I was really looking forward to The Seven Bends performance and was certainly not disappointed as they did a great job of covering The Allman Brothers.

Next up was a long commute of about a mile for the PA Musician's festival, Whitey Noll's Celebration of Life Music Festival. The event started off with Robin remarking on, and remembering Whitey Noll's remarkable journey in life, both within our incredible local music scene, as well as what made him such a great human being outside of the music world. This was followed by an Official Memorial Service led by Pastor Tim from Abundant Harvest Church. Following the service, several family and friends played a few songs, including Rachel Rocks in her debut performance with her ukulele, a great acoustic performance by Danielle Farhat, as well as a few others. This was followed by 5 bands that have been featured and written about so many times over the years that the magazine has been in business. Starting off with the Syn D' Cats, followed by Shea Quinn, Ian Rawhauser, Steve Zero of The Sharks (with a few friends including James Klippel...sighting #3 LOL). The Martini Bros brought their raw rock and roll to the stage next, followed by Road Case. The finale of the evening was brought to us all by The Suicide Puppets. The entire evening was just amazing...so many people that were affected in such positive ways by Whitey's work over the years, there to remember him and recount stories of him.

My final trip out for the month...well, you'll have to wait til next month's article to hear about it :)

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. What a whirlwind...I went from seeing 5 or 6 performances last month to shooting 25 bands this month. 25! It made for a busy month, but a welcome one. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see, make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

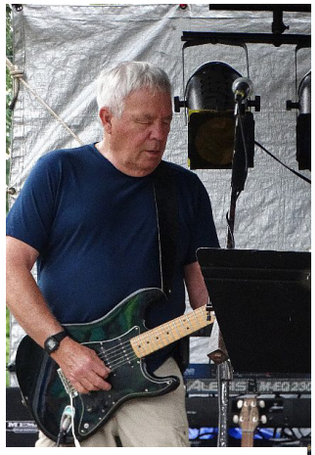
THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

Unleashed after mostly being on the shelf since March of last year, live music has come back like gangbusters in recent weeks, with more indoor venues getting back to hosting bands and performers, and outdoor live music action returning with a vengeance. And there seems to be an increased sense of appreciation from fans, venues, musicians, production and support staff that live music is back and some sense of normalcy has returned.

Family, friends, musicians and fans converged on a rural location near Liverpool last month to remember and celebrate PA Musician founder Whitey Noll, who passed away in January. I was traveling in from the Smoked Country Jam Bluegrass Festival in northern PA (see next paragraph), and arrived just after Robin Noll delivered her opening welcome and prayer. Arriving rain didn't dampen the spirit as much of the audience stood in the raindrops to listen to Robin's words, followed by Danielle Farhat's stirring a cappella rendition of "Amazing Grace" and her guitar rendition of "Way Maker." Pastor Tim then presented a sermon that recalled Whitey and his faith, and shared a message about not being judgmental of others. The musical celebration of Whitey then commenced, with one of Whitey's longtime friends, Charlie Hood, stepping up to perform a rendition of "Ukaboom Man" and another song. Whitey's son-in-law, David Greene, and long time friend and jamming partner, Rick Beck, then performed a few more Whitey original songs, before The Syn D'Cats took the stage. While a steady rain fell, The Syn D'Cats let the rock'n'roll fly with a number of their rowdy original songs – including some from their 1995 "Cataphonic" album such as "Junkyard Women" and "$60 Bill," as well as "Bitchin' the Blues" and an edgy, rocking update of War's "Me and Baby Brother." Next up was Shea Quinn and friends…Shea on bass was joined by friends such as his Sharks cohort Steve Zero on guitar, singer and guitarist Ian Rawhauser – son of the late Sharks singer and guitarist Sam (Lugar) Rawhauser – as well as Ryan Sohmer on drums and James Klippel on keys. Together they celebrated the music of The Sharks, doing numbers from the group's catalog such as "You'd Better Watch Her," "Do You Remember," "Holiday," "Standing in the Rain," "Will Tomorrow Be Too Late" and others. Then the Martini Brothers lit up the stage with their hearty, roots-driven brand of rock'n'roll. Frontman Deuce Gibb and company brought the rock and the swagger as they dished out feverish meat-and-potatoes rock'n'roll. Road Case followed with their set of hard-hitting classic rock favorites. Singer Chris Redding, guitarists Chris Dellaporta and Clint Lyons, bassist Jeff Lawrence and drummer Ed Piccolo jubilantly hammered out classics from The Cult, Led Zeppelin, Black Crowes, Aerosmith, Humble Pie, Queen, Def Leppard and more. And Suicide Puppets slammed the lid on the night with their set of intense, original heavy metal. Donned in facepaints and black attire, lead snarler Twisty Suicide, guitarists Steven Suicide, Tattuicide and Donnie Von Gailinger, bassist Jonny Suicide and drummer Veritas Suicide mixed power metal and industrial elements into their own distinctive sound, with a charged stage show to match. The group dedicated their terse rendition of Real Life's "Send Me an Angel" in memory of Whitey, and performed other intense numbers such as "Man in Black," "Blacker Days," their closer "Porn Star" and more. It was heartening to see everybody who showed up this day to celebrate Whitey and show their support to the Noll family; hats off to everybody who attended, as well as Dave and Linda Russell for donating their property for this day, all the musicians, Keith Hummel on the sound, and everybody else who was a part of making this event happen!

Charlie Hood



Steve Zero

As mentioned, my two days prior to the Whitey Noll celebration were spent in the northern PA Wilds, taking in the return of the Smoked Country Jam Bluegrass Festival at Quiet Oaks Campground in Cross Fork (north of Renovo). I arrived on Thursday evening, and set up my tent accommodations

Rachel Rocks

continued on next page…

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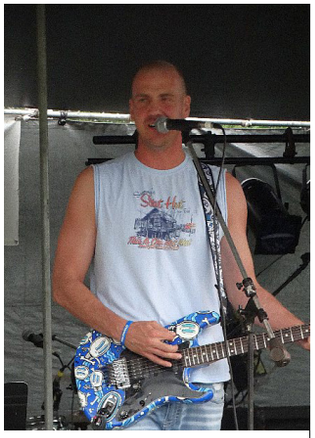
with enough time to catch the last three performers this night, starting with Harrisburg's Dead Horse Revival, who had youngsters hula-hooping in front of the stage with their upbeat mixture of traditional-flavored bluegrass. The group's newest member, upright bass player Katie Powderly, showed a strong voice on the group's rendition of Dolly Parton's "Jolene." Next was Danville-based Strawberry Ridge, providing their tasty mixture of bluegrass, folk, country and blues flavors, topped with some great-sounding harmonies. Singer and guitarist Renee Goocey,



Ian Rawhauser

guitarist Robert Shuey, upright bass player Dave Kessler, banjoist Mark Doncheski and mandolin player Rick Marcera did a few original numbers plus songs from the Gibson Brothers, Tim Hardin, Dolly Parton, Claire Lynch, a version of Van Morrison's "Tupelo Honey," Vince Gill's "Go Rest High on That Mountain" dedicated in memory of Joe Sullivan, and more. Closing Thursday night's music was Pittsburgh trio The Millbillys, whose blend of traditional musical styles, chops and humor made them an instant favorite. Singer and harmonica ace Charlie Barath, stand-up bassman Jeff Scheller and guitarist Mark Snider did a variety of colorful original songs, many from Charlie's just-released album "Just Me and My Friend(s)." Tunes included the country-flavored "She Drives Me to Drink," the Texas swing-geared "Losin' My Mind Over You," the bluesy and funky "Travelin' Woman," the oompah-toned "Sick, Sober and Sorry," "Little Turtle Nightlight," and their catchy closer "Guacamole," which had various audience members yelling that word the rest of the weekend.

I also caught many of Friday's performances between both the Quiet Oaks and PA Wilds stages, starting with Beaver County-based family group Echo Valley. Five sisters and a brother strong, Echo Valley delivered great harmonies as they presented a blend of gospel and traditional bluegrass flavors, as well as a bluegrass-driven rendition of the Chordettes' "Lollipop." Altoona favorites Mama Corn mixed their traditional-geared bluegrass sounds with their own touches of humor as they did original songs plus bluegrass takes on Pink Floyd's "Fearless," Manfred Mann's "Fox on the Run," "Down Home Girl" and others, and for the encore, their song about this event, "Smoked Country Jam." I also enjoyed sets from New York's Jim Gaudet & the Railroad Boys, Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike, western PA's The Jakob's Ferry Stragglers, Harrisburg's Colebrook Road, West Virginia's Silas Powell & the Powell Family Band, and renowned Danville-based singer, songwriter and educator Van Wagner. Headlining on the PA Wilds stage was one of the weekend's highlights, a western PA-based four-band performance of the soundtrack to the popular 2000 film "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou." All dressed in 1930s-period clothing, the rosters of the Jakob's Ferry Stragglers, Echo Valley, The Millbillys and Well Strung entered by walking through the crowd and singing "Po Lazarus" as they made their way to the stage. All four bands and combinations of band members then took turns performing songs from the soundtrack (including each of the album's four renditions of "I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow"), with Jeff Scheller of Well Strung/The Millbillys narrating along the way. After this, nationally-popular Missouri-based bluegrassers The Hillbenders headlined on the Quiet Oaks stage, delivering an energetic mix of bluegrass and newgrass stylings plus stellar musicianship. The group that converted The Who's rock opera "Tommy" into "Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry" did 'Whograss' renditions of The Who's "Baba O'Riley" into "Love Reign O'er Me" plus "Pinball Wizard." The Hillbenders also did their own songs such as "Wrong Way," "Psychic Lady," "Radio" and others, and kept a large crowd in front of the stage happy for the duration.

Before departing on Saturday morning for the aforementioned Whitey Noll celebration, I spent some time with Van Wagner and watched his "North of 80" workshop presentation. The title of one of Van's most popular songs, "North of 80" has spawned a community on Facebook that celebrates Van's music as well as the heritage of Pennsylvania north of Interstate 80. For the "North of 80" workshop, Van welcomed many of these fans to bring instruments and songbooks (free and downloadable from his website) and perform with him as he did various songs and requests from his catalog. (You can hear excerpts from this session when Van is a guest on my "Homegrown Rocker" radio program on Q94 on Sunday, July 11.)

Other performers at this year's Smoked Country Jam that I didn't get to see included New Jersey's Bug Tussle, Baltimore's Dirty Grass Players, Huntingdon County native and Nashville-based performer Doug Forshey, West Virginia favorites the Hillbilly Gypsies, Clinton County's Lockport Drifters, North Carolina's Fireside Collective, Grass Stained Genes, Nashville-based family group Williamson Branch, Texas Rose Band and Well Strung. Also taking place was the award ceremony for the 13th annual Pennsylvania Heritage Songwriting Contest, which awards prizes for the best original song submissions about the state of Pennsylvania, its people,

Felix Kos & Jeff Clapper

continued on next page…

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history, traditions and heritage. First place went to William Ryan of State College for his song "Pennsylvania Grass." Second place went to Leonardo DiSanto of Lancaster for his song "Letters from Centralia," and third place was John Kingman Smith of Baltimore for his song "Grainery Road." All three winners received cash prizes, festival passes and the opportunity to perform their winning songs on stage at Smoked Country Jam. Proceeds from the festival benefited the Lupus Foundation of America Philadelphia Tri State.

Besides at Smoked Country Jam, I also got to see Van Wagner during a supper stop en route to a mini-vacation I spent in northeast PA during late May. Van performed at the Iron Fork Restaurant, part of the Frosty Valley Resort in Danville. Van spotlighted a number of his new songs, including numbers from his forthcoming bluegrass album, his fascinating song "Hey You Yankee Boy" (about the 'Pennamite War,' a pre-Revolutionary War conflict between Pennsylvania and Connecticut militias that

Ron Dalansky / Half Tempted

Connecticut initially won), and a song called "Be Real" from his new rap-geared album called "Rap Is Folk" (see the CD review elsewhere in this issue).

The first of five PA Roundhouse Rally concert weekends happened in late May at Roundhouse Harley-Davidson between Altoona and Duncansville. The three-day event featured food, beverage and other vendors, a motorcycle run to Bedford, the 'Bacon & Bourbon Fest' to benefit Ronald McDonald House, and live music. Hair Force One opened the musical slate on Thursday, celebrating the 1980s hair-band "decade of decadence." Singer Victor Synn, guitarists Michael J. Cox and Milo Nuttz, bassist Peter Fitzwell and drummer Shawn Toppuver rocked the crowd with favorites from Quiet Riot, Scorpions, Skid Row, Twisted Sister, Def Leppard, Poison, Ratt, Guns N'Roses, Cinderella, Ugly Kid Joe and more…Although deluged by rain most of the day, Friday's leg of the Roundhouse Rally featured two Altoona area favorites, Felix & the Hurricanes and Shallow 9. The Hurricanes entertained the early audience who braved the rains with their mix of classic, southern rock, blues and original tunes. The trusty trio of Felix, Bob and Jeff pulled out favorites from ZZ Top, Pat Travers, Delbert McClinton, Allman Brothers, Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Clarks, original numbers such as "Walking a Straight Line," the instrumental "Whirlwind" and more. Shallow 9 followed with their dance-friendly performance, mixing pop, funk, hip-hop and modern rock favorites. Singer Erika Marino-Ankeny, guitarists Greg Larrimore and Ryan Weaver, bassist Mitch Neuder and drummer Todd Harshbarger generated the party with songs from Cheap Trick, Panic! at the Disco, Blink 182, Cake, Charlie Puth, plus funk/hip-hop hit medleys, a soul/funk medley, an emo-rock medley and more…And two bands entertained on Saturday, starting with the Matt Pletcher Group. Matt on lead voice and acoustic guitar, Nate Beatty on bass and vocals, Ben Eberhart on lead guitar, and Randy Servello on drums and vocals provided the musical entertainment during the "Bacon & Bourbon Fest" portion of the afternoon, mixing rock'n'roll and country favorites over two sets. Opening with Matt's original song "Sure Thing," the group did numbers from Social Distortion, Dion, Chris Stapleton, Foo Fighters, Bob Seger, Steve Earle, the Beatles, Zac Brown Band, John Denver, David Allan Coe, Hootie & the Blowfish, Hank Williams II, John Mellencamp and a lot more. New York City-based Guns N'Roses tribute Get Your Guns then closed out the event with their lively and exciting presentation of Guns N'Roses music. Frontman Paul Zartler did a good job in the Axl Rose role, carrying the voice on Guns N'Roses favorites, while Jimmy Robinson did a convincing Slash both appearance-wise and on the guitar strings. Bassist Chris Tristram is a former member of House Of Lords and Jack Russell's Great White.

Altoona's historic Baker Mansion hosted their second annual Mansion Mania Rockfest last month, raising funds for the Blair County Historical Society. Like last year, the bands Challenger Deep and Half Tempted provided the rock. Challenger Deep – featuring singer Haley Hallinan, lead guitarist Brian Lazinski, bassist and singer Max Knott, and drummer and percussionist Lisle Weaver – led off the afternoon with their mixture of mostly 1990s era rock and pop favorites. They warmed up the audience with tunes from Lady Gaga, Sublime, Charlie Puth, The Cult, Nine Inch Nails, 4 Non Blondes, Madonna, Fleetwood Mac, Billie Eilish, Blur and more. Longtime classic-rocking favorites Half Tempted followed with copious amounts of 1970s and 1980s rock. Guitarist and singer Jimmy Mincin recently returned to the fold, joining lead singer and mainstay Ron Dalansky, bassist Todd Batzel and drummer Doug Stephens. They rocked the Baker Mansion grounds with tunes from Free, Grand Funk Railroad, Thin Lizzy, Kiss, AC/DC, Jimi Hendrix, Cheap Trick, Poison, Ramones, Twisted Sister, Judas Priest and many more.

Fuse lit the fuse on rocking fun last month when they entertained during the Nanty Glo Community Days celebration, hosted by the Nanty Glo Fire Department. Featuring lead singer Nick George, guitarist Tom Buck, bassist Rich George and drummer John Tedeski; Fuse quickly filled the dance floor area with their high-energy selection of rocking 1970s and 1980s favorites. All four members of this group were excellent in their respective roles – Nick displayed an excellent voice throughout the night, achieving David Coverdale's high notes and power on Whitesnake's "Fool for Your Loving" and Judas Priest's "Living After Midnight." Not to be outdone, John showed great vocal range from behind the drum kit on The Outfield's "Your Love," and his beats were strong

Hanna Barakat

and steady. Tom fired off excellent and precise guitar solo displays throughout the night, and Rich's lean bass lines helped fuse it all together. Their vocal harmonies were on the money as well. Fuse's selection included songs from Foreigner, John Mellencamp, CCR, Loverboy, Huey Lewis & the News, Van Halen, ZZ Top, Bad Company, Jackyl and more. Fuse's strong performance kept this community celebration happy from start to end.

I caught up with local rockers Bone Jacked last month as they performed at Altoona's Valley View Amphitheater. Singer and guitarist Kip Woodring, guitarist Chris Guella, bassist DJ Gates and drummer Terry Wilt performed favorites spanning the 1960s through 1980s. Their presentation was enthusiastic and tight; Kip brought his guitar out into the audience to jam up close with the people, even demonstrating his slide skills on George Thorogood's "Bad to the Bone" and "Move It On Over." He also handled most singing duties, with DJ fronting the group on Charlie Daniels' "Long Haired Country Boy" and the show-ending version of Neil Young's "Rocking in the Free World." Bone Jacked also did songs from Van Morrison, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Tom Petty, Georgia Satellites, CCR, Johnny Cash, AC/DC, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Santana, Dire Straits and many more. You could tell that these four musicians were happy to be entertaining these onlookers, and their heartfelt performance won this audience.

It's not often that I get to see a hot dog perform live music, but the opportunity presented itself when the musician and performance artist who brought you Elvis Chicken and Sharky – Altoona's Tom Brunner – introduced his latest incarnation, Hot Dog Boy, who performed for diners and curious onlookers in late May at Burger Hut between Buckhorn and Ashville. Clad in a hot dog

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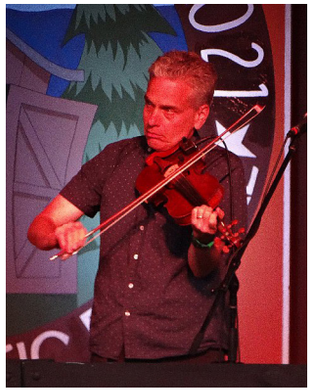
outfit complete with mustard and bun, and with his electric guitar adorned in a plush fuzzy hot dog, Hot Dog Boy mixed original music creations with his own unique send-ups of pop standards and favorites. His song selection was unpredictable and improvisational; only Hot Dog Boy knew where he was going next. Roger Miller's "King of the Road" veered into his original 'jingle'-type song "Saucey Sausage," and his metal guitar curveball take on "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" led into a guitar rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner," and a version of Garth Brooks' "Friends in Low Places." It was interesting to observe onlookers' reactions; some folks looked bewildered, while a couple seated behind me at the picnic tables expressed appreciation for what Hot Dog Boy was doing, and two young ladies from Penn Cambria High School requested selfies with him (which he gladly obliged). Having played in bands for four decades, Tom likes his current solo path and the freedom to create and express himself musically. He doesn't take his solo incarnations too seriously, and likes occupying the middle ground between musician, performance artist and clown. Like his other incarnations, Hot Dog Boy is Tom Brunner's creative outlet, and allows him to explore musical paths and visual themes. My hat's off to Hot Dog Boy for daring to be different and original. Altoona Curve baseball fans can see Hot Dog Boy and Tom's other new incarnation – as performing ice cream cone "Mr. Whippy" – as part of People's Natural Gas Field's "Awful Night" promotion on July 7 before the Curve takes on the Akron Rubber Ducks.

While delivering the June issues of PA Musician in downtown State College last month, I came upon a refreshing sight, as live music was happening outside 3 Dots for the first time since 2019. It was the first installment of 3 Dots' weekly Tuesday evening Open Mic, hosted by Jason Adams. Singer and guitarist Joe Miller was entertaining as I arrived, and I parked my delivery dolly and took in the rest of the music. After another unidentified performer did a few songs, Jason took the stage and played a mix of his own originals and select covers. Initially strumming acoustic guitar, Jason started with the original "Path to Rock Bottom," before doing songs from Bob Marley, Tom Petty, the Animals and Johnny Cash. A little extra unexpected entertainment occurred, as the State College Borough Water Authority showed up to flush a fire hydrant mere feet from the stage. But the worker skillfully directed the spraying water out onto Beaver Avenue, and no musicians or gear got wet. Jason finished the Open Mic by turning his attentions to the house piano sitting outside the door, where he did a sing-along rendition of Billy Joel's "Piano Man." Open Mic will happen at 3 Dots each Tuesday through the summer season.

I witnessed a lot of shows at McGarvey's in recent weeks…From Austin Texas, Hanna Barakat and her band visited McGarvey's stage as part of a northeastern trip last month. After The PennSoulvanians opened the night with their strong and soulful set, Hanna and her band demonstrated her unique brand of modern rock, which fuses hard, Evanescence-like rock dynamics with a distinct Middle Eastern edge. Hanna showed a strong, versatile voice and engaging personality with the crowd, flanked by guitarist Carson Carter, bassist Anthony Basini and Altoona's own Lisa Fazenbaker on drums. Hanna and band did many of the songs from Hanna's album "Siren," including the title song as well as "Let Go," "Criminal," "Damage Done," "Wildfire" and the pop-toned "Leave Your Light On." Inspired and intrigued by her father's former homeland of Lebanon, Hanna did several songs that strongly represented the mixture of rock and Middle Eastern styles along with words addressing some of the realities in that part of the world – numbers such as the set-opening "In the Night," "Cycle" (including a spoken passage from her father), "Separation" and "Wanting to Go Home." During mid-set, Hanna and Lisa did a four-song acoustic duo segment. Engaging and thought-provoking music; Hanna and her band delivered the goods and won the crowd this night; if you missed them, the group will be back in October to perform at the Bedford Fall Foliage Festival.



Scott Matlock of Dead Horse Revival

Other shows I caught recently at McGarvey's included Samara's phoenix-like rise from the ashes to present their intense, audiovisual heavy metal spectacle in late May, with guest bands The Heathen Parade and Off the Top Rope…Also high-velocity shows from Pittsburgh favorites the Legendary Hucklebucks and The Filthy Lowdown, the first Altoona visit by State College-based musical adventurers Gelatinous Cube, and a strong showing from Altoona-based hard rockers Buckshot Tea Party with guests Mellissa Vella & Rick Ramsey in late May.

And the Nag Champions Mystery Band musically initiated a new eatery in Cresson last month, when they performed at The Brick on Front (formerly Tre Regazzi and the Blue Moon Saloon). Lead singer and guitarist Derek Gresh, guitarist and singer Gary McCloskey, keyboardist and guitarist Tim Homerski, bassist Graham Albright and percussionist Ed Hofer blended elements of funk, groove, jam, Americana and rock via their original song

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The Professor continued...

creations, including several from their forthcoming fourth album. They also did select covers, applying their own distinctive flavor to such tunes as Van Morrison's "And It Stoned Me," Stephen Stills' "Love the One You're With," the Rolling Stones' "Play with Fire," the Allman Brothers' "Ain't Wastin' Time No More," several Grateful Dead numbers and more. Nag Champions' presentation was inventive and freewheeling, as they let the vibe of each song carry them with frequent improvisation. They were well-received by the audience this night; and more appearances at The Brick on Front are likely.

The area music scene was saddened by the loss of several longtime members in recent weeks…Longtime sound engineer Rick Claar passed away on June 3 at age 66 after battling health issues. Rick ran sound for many of musician John McKelvey's band projects, including The Front, The Housepets, Paradise Lost, Issues, Flight 19 and others, plus ran sound for numerous other area bands, performers, shows and benefits. He also was involved with the Blair County Community Action Agency, and ran sound for many of the Agency's summer concerts at downtown Altoona's Heritage Plaza in recent years. He also engineered and produced recordings for a number of bands and musicians…William Ford passed away unexpectedly on May 25. Formerly of Hollidaysburg, William was a bandsman in the United States Air Force in the early 1960s, and retired from the 28th Division Band of the Army National Guard in 1995. He was a private drum teacher at Ford Music in Altoona and a freelance musician for nearly four decades…And Ben Nelson, father of Mama Corn's Jeremy Nelson and a long-renowned area bluegrass musician, passed away on June 24 at age 75. A member of such groups as The Grass Strings and Alder Creek, Ben wrote many songs, some which Jeremy and Mama Corn continue to perform and preserve.

News and notes…While many festivals and community events have returned in 2021 after missing last year due to COVID-19, not everything is back; last year's pandemic scuttled fundraising and resources to enable several community events to take place this year. Local examples include Portage Summerfest, which has cancelled their usual three-day event for this year and is instead holding a one-day FundFest on Aug. 15 to help raise funds to bring back the full-scale festival next year…Richland Community Days in Johnstown has also cancelled their August event for similar reasons…The Altoona First Frontier Festival will return to downtown Altoona's Heritage Plaza on Saturday, July 31.The reunion/farewell show from Altoona rock'n'roll legends The Front is back on; after being shelved twice last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the show will now take place on Saturday, November 6 at The Casino near Altoona's Lakemont Park…Somerset County rock band Diamond Star Halo has reached its end. Drummer Todd Reffner made the announcement this past week, citing his own health issues and another band member retiring as factors in the decision…After appearing as a guest with the group over the past few months, singer and keyboardist Caryn Dixon has officially joined the ranks of popular State College rock and pop group My Hero Zero…Johnstown-based singer and songwriter Dan Stonerook has teamed with two Pittsburgh area musicians to form a new band project called Moonshine Jasmine…Now based in Huntingdon, singer and songwriter Jack Servello has teamed with his son Richie Servello in a new duo project called Acoustic Express…Currently the bass player for Jim Donovan & the Sun King Warriors and Matt Otis & the Sound, Kent Tonkin is creating and recording music toward his solo project called Scorched Earth Syndrome; numerous musicians appear on the recordings, including Kent's longtime collaborators Bob McGarvey and Ron Brode, plus Lily Taylor, Zach Wade, Michael Kensinger, Matt Otis, Mellissa Vella, Kenny Murdick, plus his Sun King Warriors brethren Jim Donovan, Dan Murphy, Kevin McDonald and Bryan Fazio. A release date for the music has not yet been announced…Altoona-based musician Pat McGinnis is in the midst of a special journey; starting in late May, Pat is pedaling his bicycle from San Francisco to Virginia Beach in a quest called "Salt to Salt." At press time, he had just crossed into Kansas – follow his progress and updates on his "Salt to Salt" page on Facebook…Once again, I extend big thanks to my "street team" who helps get PA Musician to various locations in west-central PA: Deanna Trio-Schompert (Johnstown and Somerset) and Dylan Miller (Huntingdon).

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

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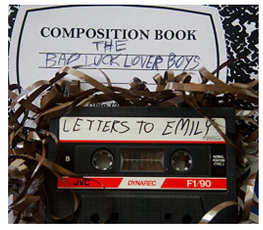
PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

VAN WAGNER – RAP IS FOLK (no label) As explained on the back of the CD cover, "Rap is folk. Folk music is the music of the people. It's created on porches, in living rooms, around campfires, and wherever people gather and share life experiences as music. Rap is folk." Inspired by one of his students at Danville Area High School; renowned singer, songwriter and educator Van Wagner steps outside of the box and explores rap and hip-hop frontiers as a form of folk music on his latest CD, Rap Is Folk (which is dedicated to the high school graduating class of 2021). Merging his voice, guitar, banjo, harmonica and mandolin with beats and bass by young colleagues Trace Cassidy and Ethan Weader plus harmony vocals by Haley Berge, Van generates an intriguing blend of rap passages, melodies and beats with traditional American instrumentation over the album's 11 tracks. The results are not as

awkward as some fans of Van's musical catalog might expect; this is easily listenable and engaging, as the musical merger is smooth-sounding and catchy, and Van's words are insightful, educational and even amusing. Van explores his premise of rap music's folk heritage on the title track "Rap Is Folk" which opens the album; this track sets the tone for this unique musical adventure. "One in the Same" promotes unity and connectivity among people, while the soulful "Behind the Mask" references the year of COVID, with masks symbolizing our distancing from not just the world but our own inspirations and aspirations. With accents of banjo blending with digital beats, "Coal Cracker" explores Van's unique path from working the mines to writing the rhymes. Hinting a slight throwback to Everlast's 1998 single "What It's Like," Van encourages listeners to be themselves on the acoustic-driven "Be Real" with its infectious chorus hook payoff. Van shares the thrills of this latest creative venture on "Wicked House," weighs in on digital currency with "Crypto," raps about Susquehanna river rafting on "Roll On," and even tips his hat to bowling on the album-closer "Set em Up Knock em Down" – because as he muses, "There's not enough songs about smashing the pins." Van as a rapper is calm, cool and collective, and his rhymes are clever and intelligible. The beats and backdrops move and groove, and the harmony vocals and several sound effect samples work well with the rhythms and melody lines. The overall sound of the album is crisp and consistent, with all components of this mixture sounding clear and full. Van Wagner's first foray into rap music provides a fun, interesting listen to the open-minded – Rap Is Folk effectively establishes its premise of rap as part of the folk tradition – and likely also marks the first time that names such as 'Shickshinny' and 'Centralia' have entered the rap music lexicon. (The album can be purchased through Van's website, www.vanwagnermusic.com.)

BAD LUCK LOVER BOYS – LETTERS TO EMILY (no label) First formed in 2017, Bedford-based rockers Bad Luck Lover Boys introduced their fledgling pop-punk rock sound on an initial self-titled EP in 2018. The group has since honed their chops and songwriting skills, leading to their first full-length album, Letters to Emily. Singers and guitarists Chris (Diehl) Scott-Ranson and Matt Godissart, singer and bassist Adam Lingenfelter and drummer and singer Brad Hengst generate 11 infectious, punk-fueled anthems here, chock full of simple and catchy song hooks, punchy performances and often witty lyrics about life, love and parties gone awry. With its "Shut Up"-punctuated choruses, the fast-firing album



opener “In One Day” expresses a day’s confusion and chaos, and how a given day can veer off course. The Green Day-toned “Somewhere Girl” adores a gal who has her act together (an acoustic version of the song appears at album’s end as a bonus track), while “Movie Song” celebrates the cinematic qualities of another, and “Cory’s Hangover” documents party misadventures and romances. Adam Lingenfelter’s gruff growl fronts two songs here; “London Fog” and its dress-down of clueless people, and “Internal Monologue” with its mental wanderings about the direction of a relationship. Bad Luck Lover Boys deliver a strong set here; the tunes are catchy and the hooks hang in your cranium long after you hear them. Their instrumental performances are solid and freewheeling in the best pop-punk tradition, while Chris and Adam both show decent voices in their respective fronting roles. The group never takes things too seriously here, and keeps the album fun from start to end. Recorded at Soundwave Studios in Bedford, and mixed and mastered by Cody Hoover, Letters to Emily sounds clean, balanced and full, with everything sounding clear in the mix. Bad Luck Lover Boys provide quality punk-rocking ear candy with Letters to Emily, a fun listen that further establishes this group’s musical turf and shows clear forward momentum. (The album can be obtained through Amazon and other online music platforms.)

ANDY MOWATT’S FREQUENCY MOVEMENT – SYMPHONIC FUNK BOX (no label) Lancaster-based guitarist, singer, bandleader and musical adventurer Andy Mowatt continues to explore musical frontiers with his latest project, Andy Mowatt’s Frequency Movement (AMFM). With a roster of 24 musicians including 12-person string contingent, AMFM’s latest album, Symphonic Funk Box, blends together symphonic elements with funk, jazz and rock flavors over 11 tracks. The majority of the album is instrumental, as Andy and his cast craft catchy melodies, punchy tempos and rhythms, inventive blending of instruments and more. Drums and a cowbell rudiment lead off the album-introducing passage “Booth Yazz,” generating a retro-like jazz-funk vibe. One of three vocal numbers, “Back It Up” establishes a punchy groove and infectious chorus hook right off the bat, accented with Andy’s talkbox

effects along the way. Symphonic strings usher in the slower jazz-funk exercise “Mainline,” followed by the guitar and key-propelled vocal jazz-rock number “Time.” “Pounder” delivers a robust, funk-driven rock groove, while the horn section gets a workout on the punchy funk of “Good Luck With That.” AMFM indulges their explorative side with “Power Outlet,” shifting between varying rhythms and instrumental textures, before the group steps up the tempo on “Prove It.” Perhaps the most intriguing number here is “Golden Hour,” which builds from a symphonic-flavored beginning into a slow and strong vocal number with horns, keys, strings and guitar establishing depth, before the number resolves back to a string section ending. Also included is one cover song, as Andy’s gentle guitar melody evolves into a symphonic-backed instrumental version of the Beatles’ “Blackbird.” Produced and arranged by Andy, the music of Symphonic Funk Box radiates from start to end. The instrumental arrangements and execution are dazzling, and these numbers exude bright tones and virtuosity. Recorded, mixed and mastered by Mike Washkevich at MDW Productions in Harrisburg and Bobby Gentilo at Right Coast Recording in Columbia, this album sounds crisp and vibrant, with the various instrumental colors shining brightly throughout the set. This is a fun album – AMFM’s Symphonic Funk Box provides a rousing listen that will get you grooving in your seat, and likely rising from that seat to establish your own ‘frequency movements’ throughout the room. Good stuff! (The album can be obtained through Andy’s website, www.andymowatt.com, his Bandcamp page and other digital platforms.)

THE FILTHY LOWDOWN – EL ACCIDENTÉ (No Pants Records) The Filthy Lowdown has been slamming forth their brand of punk rock-flavored aggression from the Pittsburgh scene since 2010. Their second full-length CD, El Accidenté, finds the quintet cranking on all cylinders with their high-velocity, thrash metal-powered punk attack. Lead guitarist Brandon Habera, rhythm guitarist Max Snyder, bassist Charlie Kowalski and drummer Dan Kelly storm forth with reckless abandon rhythms and torrid, snarling guitars, setting the backdrop for frontman Abraham “Abe Like Lincoln” Balestra to sing, snarl and shout his words with vein-popping intensity. After the prelude of a recording studio dispute gone awry, the disc-opening track “Mischief” slams out the gate and sets the album’s torrid pace, with Abe emphatically roaring that mischief is who he is. Party mayhem abounds on the

speedster “308,” and dead-end job woes inform Abe’s rants on “No Ambition” and “Don’t Wear Yourself Thin.” The Filthy Lowdown shows a roots-rock vibe on the south-of-the-border adventure “Tijuana Chronicles,” which sets up for the sequel song, the fast and furious “Somebody Hit Somebody” as all hell breaks loose south of the border. “Sex Owl” and “Cheap Cars Fast Women” celebrate wild people and wild times, while “I Am Rock N’Roll” and “Punk Punch N’Roll” extol the virtues of making music and being oneself. Slamming the album homeward, the radio single “Hydroplane” waxes introspective about life skidding out of control, while “Twisted Minds” ponders others who have lost control and a lot more. Adrenalin carries the day on El Accidenté, as The Filthy Lowdown is pedal-to-the-metal all the way. This band slams for broke, yet keeps it together and on target. Frontman Abe is equal to the task and rages with the best of them. Yet he and band never take themselves too seriously, and coupled with decent song hooks and gang shout choruses, make this a wild yet fun set from start to end. (You can obtain the album through The Filthy Lowdown’s Bandcamp page.)

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